

Amendment No. 3 to HB7035

Hazlewood  
Signature of Sponsor

**AMEND Senate Bill No. 7079**

**House Bill No. 7035\***

by adding the following as a new section immediately preceding the last section and renumbering the remaining sections accordingly:

SECTION \_\_. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 7, Part 31, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section, "fund" means the mental healthcare professionals student loan repayment grant fund established by subsection (b).

(b) There is created a separate fund within the general fund to be known as the mental healthcare professionals student loan repayment grant fund. The fund is composed of:

(1) Funds appropriated by the general assembly for the fund; and

(2) Gifts, grants, and other donations received by the department for the fund.

(c) It is the legislative intent that twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) be appropriated in fiscal year 2023-2024 to the mental healthcare professionals student loan repayment grant fund created pursuant to this section.

(d) Subject to the availability of funds, the department shall allocate and disperse grants each fiscal year. The department shall prioritize grant awards to qualifying individuals as follows:

(1) Individuals who intend to practice in unserved areas, which are areas of this state that have no mental healthcare providers;

(2) Individuals who intend to practice in underserved areas, which are areas of this state that have a shortage of mental healthcare providers; and

(3) Individuals who graduated from eligible postsecondary institutions pursuant to § 49-4-902.

(e) Moneys in the fund must be invested by the state treasurer for the benefit of the fund in accordance with § 9-4-603. Interest accruing on investments and deposits of the fund must be returned to the fund and remain part of the fund. Any unencumbered moneys and any unexpended balance of the fund remaining at the end of a fiscal year do not revert to the general fund, but must be carried forward until expended in accordance with this section.

(f) The commissioner may promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this section in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act, compiled in title 4, chapter 5.

(g) On or before January 1, 2025, and by January 1 of each subsequent year, the department shall prepare a report to the general assembly regarding the funds received and payments made by the fund.